(b) whether the Government of Orissa has already agreed and granted permission to Mahanadi Coalfields as per the meeting held on 18th July, 1996 in presence of the CMD, Mahanadi Coal fields;

(c) if so, how much area has been covered by plantation and by when the work is likely to be completed in Ranipark by MCF; and

(d) what is the total cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has agreed for development of 438.38 acres of Ranipark area for which permissive possession has been given by Government of Orissa.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 31 acres of areas has been covered under plantation. Further, plantation will be taken up by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited only after receiving the comprehensive plan of development of the total area of Ranipark from the Chief Architect, Government of Orissa.

(d) The total cost of the project is dependent on the comprehensive plan from Government of Orissa.

Amount spent by Mahanadi Coalfields for Local Area Development

4261. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount given by Mahanadi Coalfields for the Local Area Development Fund for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and the proposal for the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no sand filling in Deobara, Dora, Handidhua and Jagannath Collieries under Mahanadi Coalfields;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any allegation of the depression of the surface land in this area; and

(d) whether there is an apprehension of earthquake because of this depression of surface land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Expenditure incurred by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited on peripheral development is as under:—

Year	Expenditure (Rs. Lakh)
1999-2000	289.92
2000-01	310.00 (Provisional)
2001-02	300.00 (Approximate)

(b) Regular sand stowing is being done in the three underground mines namely Deu Bera Colliery, Talcher (DERA) Colliery and Handidhua Colliery. Jagannath Colliery being an opencast mine does not require stowing.

(c) As far as MCL is concerned, no allegation regarding depression of the surface land has been received.

(d) Depression of surface land due to mining are not known to lead to earthquakes.

Policy Initiative for Sustainable Development of Coal Sector

4262. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recently presented Paper on "Policy Initiatives for Sustainable Development of Coal Sector" at Indian Minvest 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the measures suggested in the paper;

(c) whether Government are considering any cut in coal freight charges or giving some subsidy in freight charges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons thereto?